

**Minutes
NAAE Board of Directors
Meeting
July 22, 2026**

The NAAE Board of Directors conducted a board of directors meeting virtually on June 2, 2026. Board members in attendance included: Cameron Dale (OK), President; Kyle Stapleton (ID), President-Elect; Sharon Metzger (AZ), Region I Vice President; Lauren Emerson (LA), Region II Vice President; Paul Aarsvold (MN), Region III Vice President; John Hammond (KY), Region IV Vice President; Nelson McCracken (GA), Region V Vice President; Darla Romberger (PA), Region VI Vice President; Bill Newsom (TN), Past President; and Alissa Smith (KY), NAAE Chief Executive Officer.

The minutes of the meeting are as follows:

1. **Call to Order** –President Cameron Dale called the board meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Eastern time on Wednesday, July 22, 2026.
2. **Review and Approve Agenda** – John Hammond moved, Kyle Stapleton seconded, to approve the agenda with flexibility. Motion carried.
3. **Review and Approve Minutes** – Bill Newsom moved, Paul Aarsvold seconded, to approve the minutes from the June 2, 2026, Board meeting. Motion carried.
4. **CEO Report** – Alissa Smith presented the CEO report of what has been occurring with staff and in the office. Alissa reported about the recent awards judging as well as the state institutes that occurred this past summer. She also reported about the upcoming the #TeachAg Breakout Challenge as well as the #TeachAg Escape. Additionally, she reported on the National Agriscience Teacher Ambassador Academy and Greece International trip. Alissa also gave an updated from the most recent Council meeting. The Council has hired a new Executive Director, Allie Tucek.
5. **Membership Report** – Alissa Smith shared that membership had hit another all-time high of 10,421 members and that we are already receiving membership for the 2026-2027 year.
6. **NAAE Awards and TTTK Participant Approval** – John Hammond moved, Kyle Stapleton, seconded, to approve the NAAE Award winners and Teacher Turn the Key participants for 2026. Motion carried.
7. **NAAE Student Teaching Scholarship Approval** – Kyle Stapleton moved, Nelson McCracken, seconded, to approve twenty-one 2026 NAAE Student Teacher scholarships as presented. Motion carried.

8. **NAAE Finance Board Committee Meeting** – John Hammond, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m. The Board discussed the requirements regarding the Ag Ed Relief Fund. The board decided to add items to the Financial Review committee for this summer. Chair, John Hammond, adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.
9. **New/Old Business** – Paul Aarsvold provided the Board an update from the most recent National FFA Board of Directors meeting in July and posted notes in the Board Dropbox.
10. **Adjournment** – With no further business to be transacted at this time, Kyle Stapleton moved, Bill Newsom seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m. Eastern time.